

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication No. 03-148869 ("JP-869") in view of Japanese Publication No. 2003-086827 ("JP-827").

Claims 5 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and an intervening claims.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has amended claim 1.

Applicant has canceled claims 3-8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant has added new claims 11-14.

Claims 1, 2 and 9-14 are pending.

Matters of Form

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the Submission of Replacement Drawings filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 27, 2004. Please note that this is the second such request.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-869 in view of JP-827. Applicant has canceled claims 3-8 without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection of claims 3-8 moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 at least for the following reasons.

Claims 5 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and an intervening claims.

Before entry of the instant amendment, claim 5 was dependent from claims 4, 3 and 1. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the features of previous claims 3, 4 and 5. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 9 and 10 should now be in condition for allowance.

Before entry of the instant amendment, claim 6 was dependent from claims 4, 3 and 1. Applicant has added new claims 11-14. New claim 11 includes the features of previous claims 1, 3, 4 and 6. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 11 and its dependent claims 12-14 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.


EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

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By:



Peter J. Sistaré
Reg. No. 48,183

Customer No. 055694
DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005-1209
Tel.: (202) 842-8800
Fax: (202) 204-0289